

Hula

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The kumu hula has a personal connection to the Center's Hui No Ke Ola Pono Native Hawaiian health care system. "I'm a member of Hui No Ke Ola Pono, who has helped me immensely over the past several years," he explains. "Going through their Ornish program really helped me. It helped me to lose 80 pounds in a very healthy way. I didn't take any medication. I didn't have any type of operation. I already have other health challenges at 65. It helped me to really gain a different, healthier way of living in my senior years. And I can still enjoy what I do, continuing to teach hula and have music in my life and being able to share that."

On the anniversary of the August 2023 fire, Guerrero and his halau performed in Lahaina. It was especially emotional for him as he lost his uncle in the fire. "My mom's youngest brother, Maurice Buen, they called him Uncle Shadow, perished in the fire," he says. "It was a very hard time for us because my uncle lived there for over 50 years. He was a commercial fisherman in Lahaina. His daughter was speaking to her father the day of the fire (on the phone). All of a sudden he said, 'I need to go because there's a fire approaching and I need to find some shelter.' That was the last that she heard from him. When it came to finding where he was, my uncle and I had to submit our DNA. They had to go through the tedious process of finding out the people that were lost through DNA samples. We

had a celebration of life at Fleming's Beach to scatter his remains in February.

"It was a very painful year for all of us. But through our family, through our halau, through the efforts of our community, people kept giving and continue to give, either monetarily or just spiritually. And just helping us to cope was a really big part in helping to move through this hard time. When we were asked to perform in Lahaina, it gave me time to honor my uncle and my families once again, particularly our kupuna. The Lahaina celebration was to celebrate the lives of the kupuna that were lost, as well as the lives of the kupuna who survived and continue to go through this challenging process.

"It was sad, but it was just so beautiful to see all of these people come with grateful hearts and sharing their stories and their hopes and the continuance of loving the way that we do here on Maui. I really feel being born and raised here on Maui, we have a special kind of aloha that is particularly only from Maui. I say that very proudly."

As a musician, Guerrero has been celebrated with Hoku Awards for Male Vocalist of the Year and Hawaiian Album. More recently he has composed songs for some special places in Japan.

"During the pandemic, I was asked to go to Kyushu," he explains. "They invited me because I had written a song several years back of an area in Japan called Kamakura, where the great Daibutsu, the Great Buddha is. I wrote about how awe-struck I was to see cherry blossoms in full bloom in

that city and the Daibutsu. I wrote the song in Hawaiian language, but I gave it a twist of Japanese sounding with music, and my partner Pono Fried helped put that music together."

His song had inspired some folks in Miyazaki to contact him. "People thought that maybe if they invited me I would write a song for Miyazaki," he says. "I found out that Miyazaki is actually the birthplace of all the different gods of Japan. We decided to integrate our two beliefs of the different gods of Japan and the Hawaii gods from Maui. So when we flew there last year in May, we took waters of all the different sacred places here on our island, and decided we were going to present not only the song, but our exchange of cultures in respect for each other. We went to all of these different sacred places and did chants and hula and were met by Shinto priests. It was wonderful. We were on the news every night and in the newspapers every day.

"We ended our time there in a huge celebration outdoors with over 500 hula dancers. They danced the song, the hula to that song that I composed, which was taught over Zoom over the past couple of years. To my surprise, it came out so beautifully. Everybody danced it with so much pride and so much aloha."

Kumu Hula Uluwehi Guerrero and Halau Hula Kauluokala perform on Oct. 11 for the 50th anniversary of the J. Walter Cameron Center. This free event includes the Maui Pops Orchestra and runs from 3 to 6 p.m.

Rotary volunteers from Los Angeles make big impact on Maui

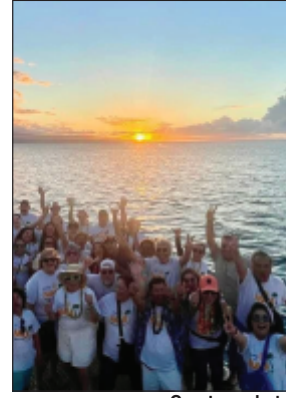
By The Maui News

WAILUKU - Members from Rotary District 5280, based in Los Angeles, traveled to Maui for a Humanitarian Service Trip from Oct. 2-6. Their mission was to lend a helping hand in relief efforts for those affected by the Maui fires, which have been supported by Rotary initiatives.

On their first day, the volunteers rolled up their sleeves at Ohana Hope Village, working diligently to assemble furniture for the tiny homes. On the second day, they were divided into five smaller groups, each heading to a different work site on the West Side. As they traveled, they received insights about their surroundings and updates on the recovery progress made over the past year.

The various locations included the Lahaina Boys and Girls Club, the Memorial along the Lahaina Bypass, Lahainaluna High School's Borders Field, the Ka La'i Ola Housing development, and Kamehameha III School.

On their last day of work, the entire team was taken to the Pu'u O Nene



Courtesy photo

The 45 volunteers from Rotary D5280 celebrate the conclusion of the Humanitarian Service Trip aboard the Teralani.

Maui shelter, where they completed several tasks to enhance the living conditions for those who had been unsheltered before the fires.

During two of the workdays, they enjoyed "local lunches" provided by the presidents of the nine Maui Rotary Clubs.

At Ohana Hope Village, Pu'u O Nene Shelter and Kamehameha III School funding checks were given to the site managers for future improvements and

needs. The funds were generated by the 60 Rotary Clubs from District 5280.

The trip also allowed time for the volunteers to immerse themselves in Maui's culture each evening. They experienced a traditional luau, and their final night featured a picturesque sunset sail.

Past District Governor Olivia Patterson, a participant on the trip, remarked, "I can confidently say we have made a difference in the lives of those still grappling with the devastating aftermath of the fire. This was a very hands-on experience; I may be tired, but I feel incredibly fulfilled. Many first-time volunteers joined us, and they truly embraced what it means to be a Rotarian — dedicating our time, resources, and efforts for the benefit of others."

The projects were coordinated by Maui Rotary leaders Al Weiland, Wendy Hornack, and Joanne Laird. Local Maui Rotarians joined the volunteers at each site, working together to exemplify the motto of "Service Above Self."

Betty E. Uehara

November 22, 1943 – September 12, 2024



Betty E. Uehara, 80, passed away on Thursday September 12th, 2024 at Maui Memorial Medical Center. She was born on November 22nd, 1943 in Paia, Maui.

She worked in Accounting with various responsibilities at the Maui News and retired there in 2020 as Head of Accounting. She enjoyed cooking and baking for everyone, spending time with her grandchildren and playing games on her phone.

She is survived by her husband Minoru Uehara, sister Harriett (Edwin) Ogata, daughter Kristi (Kutsunai) Hamai and step daughter Wendy (Rich) Vasse. She had three grandchildren Christian-James Tan, Kaylen Hamai, and Braysen Hamai. She also had five step grandchildren Laura Young, Lindsey Vasse, Tyler Vasse, Crystal Uehara and Connor Uehara. One great grandchild Cyra-Jade Tan.

Public visitation will be held at Kahului Union Church on Friday, October 18th, 2024 starting at 4:00 p.m. and service to start at 5:00 p.m.

Kaoru Nitta

Kaoru Nitta, 99, of Kahului, peacefully passed away on September 12, 2024, at the Maui Memorial Hospital. He was born on Maui, to Hatsuichi Nitta and Harue Iwasaki Nitta, on August 15, 1925.

Kaoru graduated from Maui High School in Hamakuapoko and enlisted in the army in 1945. He was honorably discharged in 1947.

He was a well-known fisherman and diver around Maui.

His main occupation was a deliveryman for Duco's Liquor Store.

Dad was predeceased by his wife Mildred Nitta, mother Harue Yamasaki, step-father Seichi Yamasaki, father Hatsuichi Nitta, sister Hazel Fumiko (Kiyoshi) Kijima, and brother Koichi (Hazel) Nitta.

He is survived by his daughters Sandra (Glenn) Sato, Lorraine (Ronald) Ishikawa, Leslie Nitta, Annette (Tony Balag) Nitta, grandchildren Daryl (Maki) Sato, Michelle (Kyle) Senamontry, Britney Nitta-Lee, Cody Nitta-Lee, Cory Morimoto, Brennan Morimoto, Alec Morimoto, Ronson Ishikawa, and great grandchildren Ella and Ashton Senamontry. He is also survived by his loving brother James (Barbara) Yamasaki and his many nieces and nephews.

The Nitta family would like to thank the staff of Hale Makua Kahului North wing for taking care of our father. He enjoyed joking around with them and making them laugh.

Our thanks also go out to the staff at the hospital, Molokai South wing, where he stayed at during the last few days of his life. Their compassionate care, patience and understanding gave us comfort that he was in very good hands.

A private Celebration of Life/service will be held.

Julia Ke'ala O Ku'upualilia Aki

July 27, 1998 – September 5th, 2024



Julia Ke'ala O Ku'upualilia Aki was born on July 27th, 1998 in Wailuku, Maui & passed away on September 5th, 2024 in Lahaina, Maui.

Julia was affectionately known to many as "Juu" or "Lilia". She grew up with 3 older siblings and she was the 4th child, the baby of the bunch. Her warm, welcoming, contagious laugh and bright smile will always be remembered. Julia enjoyed cooking, hunting, fishing and camping.

Julia is survived by her Father Levi K. Aki, Sr., Mother Santy K. Mateo-Kaiwi (Deja), Brothers Levi K. Aki, Jr., Jacob K. Aki (Kiana), Sisters Liana N. Aki (Keoki), Piper Mateo-Kaiwi, Nephews

& Nieces 'Uhane, Teagan, Ka'iwa, Dream and Sunny. Her partner Ha'ilani Keahi-Ng and their fur babies Ziggy, Mocha & Kulo. She is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews & hānai 'ohana.

Services for Julia will be held at Nakamura Mortuary on October 26, 2024 from 9am - 12pm. Family viewing will be 9am - 10am with Public viewing and services from 10am - 12pm. A celebration of life to follow from 2pm - 10pm at Uncle Manuel's Hale at Kukona Pl., Wailuku. Follow signs and balloons. Live, Laugh, Love like Lilia.

Josephine K. Fernandez

November 27, 1944 – August 22, 2024

Love one another as I have loved you.

— John 15:12

Josephine, affectionately known as Auntie Jo, our loving family matriarch and second mom to many, was called home to God on August 22, 2024, surrounded by her family.

Auntie Jo graduated from St. Anthony High School in 1962 and attended Honolulu Business College where she studied bookkeeping and accounting. After returning back to Maui, she worked for multiple local hotels including the Hukilau Hotel where she met her future husband, Uncle Manny, a handsome drummer who she could not resist. Auntie Jo also worked for a family-owned roofing company, and two physicians before finding her niche as a bookkeeper at the Law Offices of James Kruger and Cynthia Wong.

At a very early age, Auntie Jo developed a love for singing. She had a powerful, beautiful voice, and sang in the Holy Rosary choir with her sister Marie for many years. She continued to sing at Christ the King Church and led the Saturday evening mass choir at St. Anthony Church while her late husband played the drums for over 25 years.

Auntie Jo and Uncle Manny traveled to many Mainland destinations as well as Vancouver and Victoria, Canada. However, the highlight of their travels was to Rome and the Vatican. Then, after 33 years of dedicated service, Auntie Jo retired from Kruger - Wong to enjoy retirement with her late husband.

Auntie Jo loved Christmas, anything yellow, and desserts made with lemon. She spent many hours of her day in prayer, dedicating her time to praying for the sick, first responders, and her family. She regularly prayed for wisdom and guidance and possessed the unique ability to make someone's day, whether that was buying them their favorite meal, a special gift card, or sending them flowers. Auntie Jo was also extremely generous with numerous church organizations and local charities.

Though we miss Auntie Jo's candid comments, her ability to make us laugh, and her beautiful smile, we rejoice in the knowledge that she is at peace, home with our Heavenly Father, her husband, and her family who have been waiting for her.

A celebration of her life will be held at St. Anthony Church in Wailuku on Saturday, October 19, 2024. Visitation will be held from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, with Mass to follow. Burial will be at Maui Memorial Park, Garden of Meditation in Wailuku.

Auntie Jo was loved and supported by her daughter Alana Fernandez; her son Scotty (Marisa) Fernandez; her grandchildren Ian and Victoria Martins; her brother-in-law Vernon Feiteira; her niece Wendy (Jamie) De Cambra; her grandnephew and grandniece, Austin and Lexi De Cambra. Let us not forget that Auntie Jo was adored and treasured by her fuzzy grand puppy Izzy; her naughty, fuzzy kitty Haas; and her grand guinea pig Chia.

